

In the claims:

1. (Currently Amended) An alert device for detecting the presence of fecal matter comprising:

 a pad having an aperture;
 an alarm attached to said pad;
 a first and second conductor extending from said aperture to said alarm;
 a plug a third and forth conductor on said plug, said plug removably secured to said pad at said aperture.

2. (Original) The alert device of claim 1 wherein said alarm emits an audible alarm.

3. (Original) The alert device of claim 1 wherein said alarm emits a visible alarm.

4. (Original) The alert device of claim 1 wherein said alarm emits a tactile alarm.

5. (Original) The alert device of claim 1 wherein said alarm transmits a signal to a remote location.

6. (Previously Presented) The alert device of claim 1 wherein said plug is secured in said aperture by mating threads.

7. (Previously Presented) The alert device of claim 1 wherein said pad is a flexible, elastomeric material.

8. (Original) The alert device of claim 1 further comprising an inflatable cuff encircling said plug.

9. (Previously Presented) The alert device of claim 1 wherein said third and fourth conductors each comprise a pair of spaced-apart conductive rings.

10. (Original) The alert device of claim 1 further including an absorbent sleeve disposed about said tube.

11. (Original) The alert device of claim 1 wherein said plug includes a filter.

12. (Previously Presented) The alert device of claim 1 further comprising an adhesive ring attached to one side of the pad.

13-20 Cancelled

21. (Previously Presented) The alert device of claim 9, wherein the third and fourth conductors each comprise a lower ring, an upper ring and an upwardly extending section extending between the upper and lower rings.

22. (Previously Presented) The alert device of claim 21, wherein the plug comprises a lumen having an outer surface and an inner surface,

the upper ring extending about the outer surface and the lower ring extending about the inner surface.

23. (Currently Amended) The alert device of claim 21, wherein the first and second conductor each comprise a first section extending from ~~the~~ a circuit board to the aperture and a ring extending around the aperture.